

Application No.: 10/019,472

Docket No.: 60680-1562

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A gasket comprising:
at least one metallic layer including at least one gasket opening and at least one bead; and
a deformation limiter including at least one filler and one bonding agent, where said filler and said bonding agent form a coating,
wherein a mass proportion of the filler is greater than a proportion of bonding agent,
wherein at least 80% of the particles of filler have an average grain size in the range between 5 and 100 μm ,
wherein a mass ratio of filler to bonding agent is at least 2:1, and
wherein each particle of filler has a small surface area in relation to a volume of the particle.

21. (Previously Presented) A method of manufacturing a gasket comprising at least one metallic layer, in which at least one gasket opening and at least one bead are formed, and in or adjacent to the bead a coating is applied as a deformation limiter, the method comprising:

applying a mixture containing at least one filler and one bonding agent to a metallic layer, wherein a mass proportion of filler being greater than a proportion of bonding agent, wherein a mass ratio of filler to bonding agent is at least 2:1, wherein a filler in particle form is used, wherein each particle has a small surface area in relation to the volume of the particle, wherein at least 80% of the particles of filler have an average grain size in the range between 5 and 100 μm ; and

hardening the applied coating.

22-26 (Canceled)

27. (Previously Presented) The gasket of claim 1, wherein the particles have a smoothed, rounded surface.

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28. (Previously Presented) The gasket of claim 1, wherein the particles are spherical.
29. (Canceled)
30. (Currently Amended) The gasket of claim 1, wherein the particles are selected from the group consisting of a metal, an alloy, a resin, a ceramic and mixtures thereof.
31. (Currently Amended) The gasket of ~~around to~~ claim 30, wherein the particles include a copper and tin alloy.
32. (Canceled)
33. (Previously Presented) The gasket of claim 1, wherein in the mass ratio of filler to bonding agent is at least 9:1.
34. (Previously Presented) The gasket of claim 1, wherein the bonding agent is a thermosetting material.
35. (Previously Presented) The gasket of claim 1, further comprising at least one thermoplastic addition.
36. (Previously Presented) The gasket of claim 1, wherein the coating is applied in the form of a line of uneven width or height or shape.
37. (Previously Presented) The gasket of claim 1, wherein the coating is applied to two facing side of a metallic layer.
38. (Previously Presented) The gasket of claim 1, wherein the coating is applied on a first metallic layer near the bead of a second metallic layer.
39. (Previously Presented) The gasket of claim 1, wherein the coating is

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arranged in a bead.

40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the hardening step includes inputting energy.

41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the applying step includes applying a mixture with a mass ratio of filler to bonding agent is at least 2:1.

42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the applying step includes printing the mixture on to the metallic layer.

43. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the hardening step includes heating.

44. (Previously Presented) A gasket comprising:
a metallic layer; and
a coating including a particulate filler and a bonding agent wherein the particulate filler to bonding agent mass ratio is at least 2:1, wherein at least 80% of the particles of filler have an average grain size in the range between 5 and 100 μm ; and
wherein the particulate filler has a small surface area compared to the volume of the particulate filler.

45. (Currently Amended) A gasket comprising:
at least one metallic layer including at least one gasket opening and at least one bead; and
a deformation limiter including at least one filler and one bonding agent, wherein said filler and said bonding agent form a coating, wherein a mass proportion of said filler is greater than a proportion of bonding agent, wherein a mass ratio of filler to bonding agent is at least 2:1, wherein each particle of filler has a small surface area in relation to a volume of the particle, wherein the particles are spherical, and wherein at least 80% of the particles have an average grain size in the range between 5 and 100 μm , and wherein said coating has a glass transition temperature of greater than about 302°F (150°C).

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46. (New) The gasket of claim 1, wherein in the mass ratio of filler to bonding agent is greater than 9:1.